1	Daniel A. Bernath, California Bar 116636	
2	ussyorktowncvs10@yahoo.com	
3	Mailing: 1319 Kingswood Ct., Ft Myers F	L 33919
4	503 367 4204	
<b>,</b>		
5		
6	Attorney for Plaintiffs and those similarly	y situated
7		
8		
9	UNITED STATE	ES DISTRICT COURT
9 10		RICT OF CALIFORNIA
11		
12		
13	Lily Jeung, Amy Sayers, and Darre	
14	Walchesky, on behalf of themselves	-
15	and all others similarly situated	) Motion to take Default of Yelp, Inc.
16		) Motion for monetary sanctions
17		) against Yelp, Inc. and in-house
18	Plaintiffe	) Aaron Schur,
19 20	Plaintiffs,	<ul><li>) Motion that deposition of CEO</li><li>) Jeremy Stoppeman and Vice</li></ul>
20 21		) President controlling writers
22	vs.	) be permitted after presently set
23	¥3.	) discovery cutoff date or until
-3 24	Yelp, Inc.	) completed
25		) Motion that new mediation be
26	Defendant.	) Ordered, Yelp, Inc. pays
27	NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pl	aintiffs shall make and do make a
28	Motion to have the Court take the I	Default of Yelp, Inc., for abusing and
20	motion to have the court take the i	relatif of Telp, file., for abusing and
29	intentionally disrupting the Court	Ordered Mediation Program, for
30	unethical attempts to wear down P	laintiffs Counsel and Plaintiffs so as to
31	disrupt this Court's proceedings an	ed that the Court order that a new

MOTION TO TAKE DEFAULT OF YELP
SANCTIONS AGAINST AARON SCHUR, ATTORNEY AND
YELP, INC.; EXTEND DISCOVER DEADLINE TO TAKE DEPOSITIONS
MONETARY SANCTIONS TO TAKE DEPOS, TRAVEL, EXPENSES

-1-

- mediation take place and that Yelp, Inc. is placed into a default status until
- 2 the new mediation is accomplished, that Yelp, Inc. and Aaron Schur pay to
- 3 Plaintiffs and counsel all travel expenses for the bad-faith mediation and all
- 4 expenses for the new mediation and that Yelp, Inc. pay into the Court's
- 5 Mediation component the sum of \$75,000 or some other sum to deter Yelp,
- 6 Inc. from bad faith acts in the future.
- 7 This motion is made upon the declaration of Plaintiffs' attorney Daniel A.
- 8 Bernath and the Memorandum of Law and Exhibits thereto.
- 9 April 15, 2015

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

10 Daniel A. Bernath

## Declaration of Daniel A. Bernath, attorney for Plaintiffs

- Yelp, Inc's reputation is that it operates an extortion type business against small businesses by placing reviews of restaurants and other small businesses which praise the business into a discrete and hard to reach area on its publication. Yelp, Inc., places the business destroying reviews in prominent places.
- 2. The sales department of Yelp, Inc. then follows up with hints that the good reviews can go back to being seen and the bad reviews can be pushed down *if* advertising is purchased from Yelp. The 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit, surprising has said that this is merely hard bargaining by Yelp and not extortion. The US Supreme Court and the other Circuits have not yet provided their opinions.

- 2 -

MOTION TO TAKE DEFAULT OF YELP
SANCTIONS AGAINST AARON SCHUR, ATTORNEY AND
YELP, Inc.; EXTEND DISCOVER DEADLINE TO TAKE DEPOSITIONS
MONETARY SANCTIONS TO TAKE DEPOS. TRAVEL. EXPENSES

1	3.	Indeed, other judges have not agreed around the country, calling Yelp a species of
2		organized crime. At least two judges have said Yelp, Inc. is the modern day "Mafia."
3	4.	n April 26, 2013, after hearing sworn testimony from a Yelp executive, Trial Judge
4		Peter S. Doft in San Diego California ruled that Yelp uses brazen and audacious
5		extortion techniques against helpless small businesses. The Court also declared that
6		Yelp! twists the law to make it say the exact opposite of settled legal principles. The
7		San Diego Judge stated: "Yelp! is "is the modern-day version of the
8		mafia. I'm just stunned actually I mean, every single bit of settled law is twisted
9		around by [Yelp!]. Everything is twisted around."
10	5.	Also in 2013, Oregon Circuit Court Judge Henry Kantor revealed that Yelp is under
11		investigation by the attorney general and that Yelp, Inc., appears to act like
12		"organized crime." A search of google.com with the words "Yelp Extortion"
13		reveals 76,800 results and "Yelp blackmail" turns up 80,400.
14		1. Aaron Schur and Yelp, Inc. attempts to drive
15		Plaintiffs' counsel off of this case
16		discourage any other lawyer from suing Yelp, Inc.
17		by filing a complaint with false statements
18		with the California State Bar against Plaintiffs' lawyer
19		
20	6.	California attorney Aaron Schur, Yelp, Inc. major stockholder, in-house counsel
21		for Yelp, Inc. and defendant's counsel on this matter has filed a specious

MOTION TO TAKE DEFAULT OF YELP
SANCTIONS AGAINST AARON SCHUR, ATTORNEY AND
YELP, INC.; EXTEND DISCOVER DEADLINE TO TAKE DEPOSITIONS
MONETARY SANCTIONS TO TAKE DEPOS, TRAVEL, EXPENSES

complaint against me with the California State Bar. It is a frivolous complaint

-3-

	meant merely to wear down Plaintiffs and Plaintiff's counsel and to disrupt these
	proceedings. It is meant to get me to withdraw as counsel for these plaintiffs and
	to discourage any other lawyer from representing Plaintiffs against Yelp, Inc.
	"The cost is too high for lawyers in suing Yelp, Inc.", is the message
	from Yelp, Inc.
7.	"You will lose your license to practice law if you represent plaintiffs
	who sue Yelp, Inc." is being broadcast to all lawyers by Yelp, Inc. and Aaron
	Schur, Esq.
8.	As word "on the street" (said Yelp's other lawyer) spread about this hard-ball
	extreme act by Aaron Schur, Esq. and Yelp, Inc., and seeing how bad this obvious
	attempt to disrupt these proceedings look for Yelp, Inc., Aaron Schur "withdrew"
	the bar complaint. But the damage had been done and the "message" by Aaron

Schur and Yelp, Inc., to the entire bar of California was received by every

13

14

California lawyer.



# OFFICE OF THE CHIEF TRIAL COUNSEL ENFORCEMENT

Jayne Kim, Chief Trial Counsel

845 SOUTH FIGUEROA STREET, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90017-2515

TELEPHONE: (213) 765-1000 PAX: (213) 765-1318 http://www.calbar.ca.gov

DIRECT DIAL: (213) 765-1616

March 13, 2015

#### Sent via US mail and email: UssYorkTownCVS10@yahoo.com

Daniel Bernath 1319 Kingswood Ct. Fort Myers, FL 33919

Re:

Case Number:

13-0-14986

Complainant:

A.Aron Schur

Dear Mr. Bernath:

The State Bar received a complaint from Aaron Schur alleging the following:

On or about 7-20-13, you created the website, <a href="www.yelpclassaction.info">www.yelpclassaction.info</a>. Between July 2013 to 1-1-14, you improperly solicited clients when you identified yourself as an attorney, while you were on Inactive status. You also used social media, such as <a href="www.Linkedin.com">www.Linkedin.com</a> and <a href="www.facebook.com">www.facebook.com</a> to advertise your services as an attorney to prospective clients in California (attached). By improperly soliciting clients, you engaged in the Unauthorized Practice of Law (UPL).

Additionally, you also created an account on Yelp under the pseudonym *Alan Smithee*, using the screen name, "Alan S" and identified yourself as an attorney on 7-5-13 (attached).

Your written response to these allegations along with any supporting documentation is requested. <u>All</u> documents that you send to the State Bar, whether <u>copies or originals</u>, become State Bar property and are subject to destruction. In addition, please provide the information requested below and legible copies of referenced documents:

- 1. Please provide a copy of <a href="www.yelpclassaction.info">www.yelpclassaction.info</a> website from the time of its creation to present, including all changes made to the website.
- 2. Why did you identify yourself as an attorney prior to 1-1-14 when you were on Inactive status?
- 3. What was the purpose of the yelpclassaction info website?
- 4. Please explain why you provided legal advice to "Yelp Memphis" on the attached documents.
- 5. Please explain why you identified yourself as a "Lawyer" on the attached Yelp Admin page?

- 9. I told the State Bar I did not post violate any bar rules, I did not give legal advice, I did not post any such statements to Yelp, Inc.
  - 10. Yelp, Inc. was making it so expensive to represent clients against Yelp, Inc., that no lawyer would risk his bar membership for clients. Thus, Aaron Schur and Yelp, Inc. have violated the California Rules of Professional Conduct which instructs California lawyers to not refuse representation to clients who may have unpopular causes, or in this instance, a defendant who uses mafia type tactics which are an offense to this Court's proceedings.
  - 11. It appears that Aaron Schur, using its massive and superior knowledge of the internet and internet technology, posted something from an "Alan Smithee", attributed that publication by Yelp, Inc. to me and then filed the false and frivolous charge against me with the California Bar. This, again, as part of Yelp's practice as outlined by a California judge and Oregon judge as acting as the "mafia" to win by any technique or unethical antics.
  - 12. Yelp, Inc.'s and Aaron Schur's technique is that now, no matter what I say on behalf of my clients, no matter how I conduct myself, no matter what I file in this case, that Yelp, Inc. and Aaron Schur will file another frivolous complaint against me with the California Bar **so as to make me timid** in prosecuting to obtain the wages that Yelp, Inc. has taken from my clients through their clever misclassification of these plaintiff writers.

1	Yelp's disrupting the Court Ordered Processes
2	2. Attempting to delay by all means and methods
3	to set the mediation
4	after Yelp could report this Judge
5	to the Chief Judge for not ruling on
6	Yelp's motions quickly enough in Yelp's opinion
7	13. The Court ordered this matter to mediation.
8	14. We were then required to choose a date for the mediation. I, as Plaintiffs' counsel
9	said that I was ready now in the next few weeks.
10	15. Yelp insisted that the mediation take place as far into the future, demanding a
11	mid June date in 2015.
12	16.I of course protested this tactic of Yelp, Inc.
13	17. The mediator had to step in and remind the parties that he was ordered to
14	complete the mediation as soon as practicable and then gave several dates-some
15	soon but the <u>last</u> date he suggested was April 14, 2015.
16	18.I, plaintiffs' counsel agreed to that date so as to get the case moving but requested
17	that it be set forward by one week because on the week following April 14, 2015, I
18	have to attend a seminar in Florida of two days.
19	19. Without explanation, Aaron Schur, Yelp, Inc. et al., refused to stipulate to any
20	other date but April 14, 2015.

1	20.	Thereafter defendant then dropped a "Joint
2	Stater	nent" on me to sign which stated that the Court was tardy in ruling on
3	Yelp's	motion and this must go to the Chief Judge.
4	<b>21.</b> I sign	ed the joint statement but added words above my signature that Yelp, Inc.
5	had ir	tentionally pushed this mediation as back as possible to disrupt the
6	media	tion process ordered by the Court. This bad act by Yelp, Inc. so as to
7	trigge	r the "Joint Notice" where they wanted the Chief Judge to chastise this
8	judge	for being tardy on deciding Yelp's frivolous but voluminous motions, prior
9	to the	mediation so as to disrupt the mediation.
10	22.	Defendant's counsel refused to file the Joint
11	State	ment!
12	23.	Instead (contrary to the rules) Yelp, Inc. filed a
13	separ	ate statement whereby they informed the Chief Judge that the instant judge
14	was ta	aking too long in ruling on Yelp's motions and never made a mention of why
15	I had	not signed the statement, thus deceiving this Court again by failing to
16	disclo	se all facts.
17	24.	Yelp made no mention that I had signed the joint
18	stater	nent so to further disrupt these proceedings, Yelp, Inc., deceitfully, made it
19	appea	r that I refused to sign the joint statement.
20	25.	Thereafter, Yelp Inc. but filed another statement that
21	was r	equired to be Joint. Yelp, this time, to further deceive this court and disrupt

1	these p	proceedings, said that its other voluminous but frivolous motions had not
2	been ru	ıled upon.
3	26.	Yelp never even contacted me for my signature as
4	they we	ent off to the Chief Judge to so inform, thus leaving the deceitful
5	impres	sion that I had refused to sign the second Joint Statement.
6	27.	In fact, Yelp merely filed the Joint Statement but
7	never e	even told me. I was told of this latest Notice to the Chief Judge only when I
8	receive	ed Notice from Pacer that there was "new activity" in this case.
9	28.	Yelp, refused to change the mediation date to any
10	other d	late and gave no reason whatsoever, thereby disrupting my meet-and-
11	confer	with Yelp, Inc., to take the deposition of the percipient witness Jeremy
12	Stoppe	elman and the Vice President in charge of controlling the unpaid writers.
13	29.	Indeed, Yelp, Inc. was playing this shell game in the
14	meet-a	and-confer negotiations I was making with Yelp, Inc. Yelp, Inc. sought to
15	deceive	e and did in fact deceive by stating that if I indeed carry about my
16	reason	able request to take the depos of the two officers of Yelp on the day after
17	the me	diation as all attorneys were together at the time that such a request would
18	poison	the mediation.
19	30.In fact	, this was another deception by Yelp, Inc. and interference with the Court's
20	proces	ses as Yelp said firmly that it offered nothing, that it was always their view
21	and wo	ould always be their view and <b>nothing I could or could not do to</b>
22	strear	nline the litigation would have any effect on this stone wall

1	/scor	ched earth, litigation tactic. Yelp thus deceived, myself, an Officer of
2	the Co	ourt as part of its scorched earth litigation tactics.
3	<b>31.</b> Yelp,	Inc.'s attorney has telegraphed that the Notice and discovery etc., must be
4	bette	than perfect or he will file a motion to quash on any perceived technical
5	error	to disrupt the discovery process as well and that I can expect no cooperation
6	or pro	ofessional courtesy to smooth along this litigation to ease the burden on the
7	US D	istrict Court.
8	32.	The mediation was set for a deposition company's
9	confe	rence rooms in Irvine and to be economical with my clients money, with
10	Yelp's	s schedule and to not wear me down by multiple trips cross country, I gave
11	Notic	e to take the deposition of these two at the deposition company in Irvine
12	where	e all the lawyers would be present from the day before.
13	33.	Yelp, Inc. absolutely refuses and promised several
14	frivol	ous motions including an "Apex Motion" stating that Stoppelman, (even
15	thoug	gh Stoppelman <b>personally</b> fired and supervised writers, set up systems to
16	mani	pulate reviews, instructed writers who and whom they could not write
17	about	t, etc.), could not have his deposition taken. He is a percipient witness that
18	had u	inique knowledge of the facts.
19	34.	Even though I attempted to informally resolve this
20	for th	ne economical savings of judicial economy and in both money and wearing
21	me d	own, Yelp, Inc. refused. Its attorney promised the frivolous motions,
22	signa	led a scorched earth litigation tactics, to slow things down the Court's

1	proces	sses further and stated that they <b>would not "produce</b> " these percipient
2	witnes	sses without some litigation fight.
3	35.	Just prior to the mediation (which defendant Yelp,
4	Inc. in	sisted be done on April 14, 2015 without any changes), Yelp, Inc. attorney
5	Aaron	Schur informed the mediator that he was just not going to come! He said
6	that h	e had an " <b>immovable" appointment</b> that somehow took precedence
7	over a	Court ordered mediation. (Please recall that Yelp, Inc. insisted and caused
8	the m	ediator to threaten withdraw from this case and the mediation process if
9	Yelp v	would not agree to a date and Yelp, Inc. insisted on April 14, 2015, the date
10	of this	s mysterious and more-important-than-the-Court's Ordered mediation.)
11	36.	I observed that Aaron Schur had no such
12	"imm	ovable" appointment where he could defy a US District Court Judge's
13	Order	. He appear at the mediation the entire time.
14	37.	Indeed, I saw the office staff scurry around to install a
15	speak	er phone and Aaron Schur appeared at all times that way and there was no
16	"imm	ovable" appointment of mysterious urgency, more important than obeying a
17	Court	's Order.
18	38.	Aaron Schur appears to have just blatantly lied to the
19	Court	s mediator when he said he could not be there as he defied the Court
20	Order	red mediation.

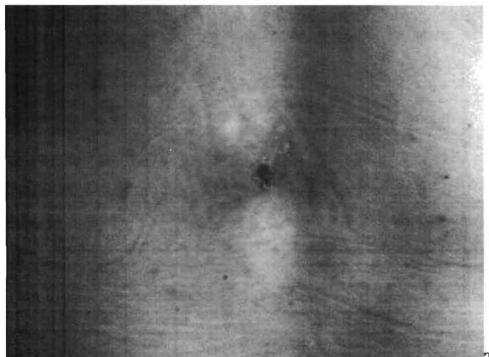
1	39.	I requested this particular mediator because of his
2	experien	ce with wage and classification collective actions. He even lectures other
3	lawyers	for CEB on wage collective actions and has produced a practice guide.
4	40.	As such, I told Schurr and Yelp, Inc. that this
5	mediato	r was thus superior to any other panel mediator as my clients and their
6	client wo	ould give his word great weight given his respect and knowledge in this
7	area of t	he law.
8	41.Drawing	on this experience at mediation and this wage, misclassification of
9	workers	area of the law, the mediator stated to all of us that because these wage
10	collectiv	e actions are so detailed that he could not appear for only half a day. He
11	then said	d that he would do it for a full day and we would have to pay a few
12	thousan	d dollars extra for the longer uses of the 2 or 3 conference rooms, lunch,
13	his time	, etc.
14	42.	But, this was all another trick and disruptive tactic
15	by Aaro	n Schur and Yelp, Inc. to wear down and discourage plaintiffs and
16	plaintiff	s' counsel from continuing with the lawsuit and running up plaintiffs
17	costs (p	laintiffs are mere working class people laboring at or above subsistence
18	level bu	t have to pay costs of this litigation as against the "Billion Dollar
19	Bully"	title of documentary movie being produced about Yelp, Inc.).
20	43.	Yelp, Inc., stated earlier that if I insisted on my
21	econom	ical plan of taking the deposition of Stoppelman and the other executive
22	in the sa	ame building, with all lawyers present from the mediation the day before

1	that he would make a motion to quash and "would not produce" the
2	witnesses.
3	44. The mediation: it was all part of the scheme by the "mafia" "Billion Dollar
4	Bully", styled Yelp, Inc. to wear down plaintiffs and plaintiffs' counsel. We
5	starting at 9:30 a.m. according to Notice.
6	45. He had a firm grasp of our positions and ferried between our conference rooms.
7	Alas, by noon, the mediator told me that their offer was zero. The mediator told
8	me that he had a firm grasp of each sides position and valiantly stuck to his duties
9	to find a middle ground but Yelp, Inc. with Aaron Schur, present only by speaker
10	phone with no "immovable appointment" said again that they would pay zero for
11	the labors the writer-plaintiffs had produced for "Billion Dollar" defendants.
12	46. Thus, the mediator could have taken place within a minute, by video conference
13	or some other means. But Yelp, Inc. had all along, as a disruptive litigation tactic
14	merely intended to wear down plaintiffs and plaintiffs' counsel, run up plaintiffs'
15	costs to win by attrition and discourage any other lawyer from suing Yelp, Inc. on
16	behalf of a harmed plaintiff.
17	47. The mediator told me that he had to give up a full day of his professional time to
18	use his considerable skills on our and the Court's behalf.
19	48. The mediator gave up his professional time and traveled from his "small mission
20	town" near San Diego to the mediation even though the mediation was a failure
21	and engineered by Yelp, Inc. as such to be as damaging to Plaintiffs and plaintiffs
22	counsel as possible.

## 49. Defendant's successful actions to wear down Plaintiffs and run up

<u>litigation costs:</u> I will be 66 years old this year. I have been a member of the US District Court bar for 30 years.

50. I am 100% US Navy service connected disabled and limit my law practice because of this.



51. The stress

that Yelp caused to me, intentionally, caused for an outbreak of painful shingles. My shingles manifested in skin outbreaks along bands on my left side of my torso and my skin to break open as if I had been stabbed, above my spinal column. Of course, I could have requested that the mediation take place at a time when the shingles had passed but Yelp's litigation strategy would have them sneeringly deny any such request. Therefore, I flew from Ft Myers Florida to Irvine California in severe pain.

MOTION TO TAKE DEFAULT OF YELP
SANCTIONS AGAINST AARON SCHUR, ATTORNEY AND
YELP, INC.; EXTEND DISCOVER DEADLINE TO TAKE DEPOSITIONS
MONETARY SANCTIONS TO TAKE DEPOS, TRAVEL, EXPENSES

1	52. I walked from John Wayne Airport to the deposition conference rooms, for a total
2	of 40 minutes in this pain. I could locate no transportation and the busses in
3	Irvine run every hour or so.
4	53. I was in pain during the morning but again, a good and professional lawyer will
5	soldier through for his clients regardless of personal infirmities.
6	54. As Yelp, Inc., revealed its disruptive mediation tactics at about noon and as a bus
7	to the airport comes around every hour or so, I again walked, in pain back to
8	John Wayne Airport. Even though aware of my age, the pain from the walk from
9	the airport, my brother counsel for Yelp, Inc., refused to and did not offer me a
10	ride to the airport-which would have taken him 5 minutes on his way back to
11	Pasadena.
12	55. I thus walked back to the airport, dragging my notes in a roller deployed luggage
13	and other objects in the noon-day-Sun for 45 minutes or so.
14	56. As the mediation was revealed to be a Yelp, Inc., mockery so early in the day, I sat
15	at the airport for 5 hours on the hard seats in pain. I had to sit sideways as the
16	Shingles sores are directly on my spine.
17	57. I then flew from Santa Ana,
18	to Phoenix,
19	to Charlotte and then to
20	Ft Myers Florida.
21	58. I arrived at 9 a.m., having left California at about 8 p.m. the day before
22	after waiting in the airport all afternoon and into the evening.

- 15 -

MOTION TO TAKE DEFAULT OF YELP
SANCTIONS AGAINST AARON SCHUR, ATTORNEY AND
YELP, Inc.; EXTEND DISCOVER DEADLINE TO TAKE DEPOSITIONS
MONETARY SANCTIONS TO TAKE DEPOS, TRAVEL, EXPENSES

59. The walking from the airport to the deposition conference rooms and back took appoximately 2 hours. The walking from one distant gate to the other also took a long time.



1

2

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

60. I estimate that on the day of the disruptive mediation I have walked seven miles in extreme pain and exhausted. The forced marching to carry out this Honorable Court's Order and on behalf of my clients, caused me to develop a blister, right foot, big toe.

on the shuttle bus to take me to my car in the Ft Myers parking lot, because of my fatigue, I was bent over at my back and my leg would not go up high enough and I stumbled on the steps.

62. My head was set to impact the floor of the bus but the driver quickly sprang up and caught me and said, "I got ya, old timer!"

61.

- 63. After I survived this Yelp, Inc. and Schur engineered ordeal, I noticed that both my feet and ankles exhibit numbness, (as if I were wear boots even though I am actually wearing no socks and short pants). My primary care physician at Veterans Affairs is concerned and has set up an appointment to exam if my ordeal has permanently harmed me.
- 64. I informed Aaron Schur and Yelp, Inc. that I was bringing this motion for disrupting the mediator process and cited them the authorities cited here as well.

Indeed, when I got

1	65.1 therefore move this Court for the sanction that Yelp, Inc. be placed in a default
2	status,
3	66. – that another mediation take place at Yelp, Inc.s expense for Plaintiffs' travel,
4	hotel, etc., at a Los Angeles airport hotel to take Yelp, Inc. out of default,
5	67. That the discovery cut off be extended until after the deposition of the
6	two Officers of Yelp be concluded and that Yelp for all those costs for
7	the new mediation, the travel back to LAX for the depositions,
8	68. That Yelp, Inc. (a multi million dollar company, the subject of a documentary
9	titled "Billion Dollar Bully", where the founding fathers have sold stock of
10	\$85,000,000 according to SEC filings) pay into the Court's Mediation and
11	Operating budget the sum of \$85,000.
12	I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct and that this
13	declaration is of my own personal knowledge and was made at Ft Myers Florida 4. 16,
14 15	My J. Lan
16	Daniel A. Bernath
17 18	
19	
20	
21	
22	

1	Memorandum of Law
2 3	Sanctions and moving the discovery cut off until the deposition of two
4	Yelp executives are concluded is well within this Court's powers to
5	regulate its processes, including mediation
6	
7	Defendant lied to the Court's mediator about its "immovable"
8	appointment that took precedence over a Court Order from this Court
9	Defendant has undertaken a unethical campaign to wear down plaintiffs
10	and plaintiffs' counsel by filing false charges against plaintiffs' counsel
11	with the California Bar,
12	Stating that the one minutes worth of mediation would take "all day"
13	thereby disrupting the Court's mediator's calendar and other mediations
14	for Courts,
15	• demanding that the mediation be set up after the time that their motions
16	would trigger a Notice to the Chief Judge, to thus disrupt the mediation,
17	• refusing to stipulate to a new date for mediation so Plaintiffs' counsel
18	could attend a weekend seminar in Florida, but for no other reason but to
19	disrupt plaintiffs' counsel,
20	• Lied to this Officer of the Court that taking a required deposition would
21	poison the mediation when in fact Yelp's position was scorched
22	earth/stone walling/zero offer now and forever.

### Case4:15-cv-02228-KAW Document31 Filed04/16/15 Page19 of 20

"Courts have not hesitated, sometimes sua sponte, to sanction a party that did not 1 abide by certain fundamental courtesies hat went beyond filing the required documents 2 and showing up with the proper representatives"1: 3 "While [it has been] suggested that, as a matter of law, the Court is powerless to 4 sanction parties for actions relating to settlement and mediation conferences, plainly 5 under Rule 16 this is not correct. Quite the contrary, it is well settled that Rule 16 "is the 6 usual vehicle for imposing coercive or punitive sanctions in these circumstances." 7 8 O'Donnell v. Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 11438, \*18 (M.D. Pa. Feb. 4, 2011) (quoting Taberer v. Armstrong 9 10 World Industries, Inc., 954 F.2d 888, 892 n.3 (3d Cir. 1992)). 11 12 Defendant's unenlightened corporate policy of 'we never pay' imposes unnecessary 13 burdens on the resources of this court, and grossly violates both letter and spirit of this 14 court's ADR plan." See Acquisto v. Manitowoc Fsg Operations, 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 15 16 144055, \*8 (W.D.N.Y. Aug. 1, 2012). "If your client is taking a no-pay position, let everyone know – well before the 17 18 mediation" (Forer) ("Had [defendant] told me it had considered the case and was unequivocally at a 'no pay' position, I would have cancelled the conference."). 19

<sup>1</sup> Can Sanctions be Applied for Bad Faith in Court-Ordered Mediation? By Charles F. Forer, Esquire

- 19 -

- "Do not jerk the other side around"<sup>2</sup>. See, e.g., HSBC Bank USA v McKenna, 952 N.Y.S.
- 2 2d 746, 766 (Sup. Ct. 2012) ("the Court finds sufficient support in the record for [the]
- determination that [lender] failed to 'negotiate in good faith' with respect to
- 4 [borrower's] second proposed short sale in failing to promptly approve the sale, in
- 5 unnecessarily prolonging and delaying the review and approval process, and in
- 6 obtaining successive appraisals that became the basis for increased demands, all without
- 7 any showing that its conduct was likely to yield a higher net return through a delayed
- 8 foreclosure sale") (citation omitted).

14 15

16

17 18

19

20

21

222324

10 See, e.g., Texas DOT v. Pirtle, 977 S.W.2d 657, 658 (Tex. App. 1998) ("... the DOT

- attended the mediation but refused to participate. . . . We find that it is not an abuse of
- discretion for a trial court to assess costs when a party does not file a written objection
- to a court's order to mediate, but nevertheless refuses to mediate in good faith.").

Daniel A. Bernath 4.16.2015/MM

I swear under penalty of perjury on 4.16.2015 that have served this motion upon Yelp, Inc. by and through their counsel but also by US Mail to:

Aaron Schur, Attorney at Law

Yelp, Inc.

140 New Montgomery St

Fl 9.

SAN FRANCISCO CA 94105-3705

<sup>2</sup> Charles F. Forer is a member in the Philadelphia office of Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC, where he practices all types of Alternative Dispute Resolution, both as a neutral and as counsel to parties engaged in ADR. He is a former cochair of the Philadelphia Bar Association's Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee.